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Public invited to community conversations to prioritize health issues in Chippewa and Eau Claire counties

Eau Claire, Wisconsin – Jan. 22, 2015. The public is invited to community conversations in February to help prioritize health concerns facing Chippewa and Eau Claire counties.

These meetings by the Community Health Assessment Partnership are a follow-up to a survey completed in fall 2014 by more than 2,500 Chippewa and Eau Claire county residents. At the community conversations, survey results will be presented and attendees will be asked to help select priority focus areas.

“We had a great response to our survey, and we’re excited to share the results with community members and get feedback in prioritizing our action plans,” says Jen Rombalski, Chippewa County Department of Public Health director.

The community conversations are free and include a light meal and prize drawings. Residents can attend whichever location is most convenient. Presentations will be from 5:30 to 7 p.m., except where noted:

- **Cornell High School:** Tuesday, Feb. 3
- **Altoona UW-Extension Office:** Wednesday, Feb. 4
- **Cadott High School:** Thursday Feb. 5
- **Bloomer Recreation Center:** Monday, Feb. 9
- **UW-Eau Claire:** Tuesday, Feb. 10 Centennial Hall, Room 1614
- **Chippewa Falls Public Library:** Thursday, Feb. 12
- **Fall Creek Village Board Room:** Monday, Feb. 16
- **Augusta Senior/Community Center:** Tuesday, Feb. 17
- **Eau Claire RCU Corporate Building:** 8:30 to 10 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18

“Bettering the health of our communities takes the efforts of many,” says Lieske Giese, Eau Claire City-County Health Department director. “This opportunity to meet with community members throughout our area is extremely valuable in prioritizing our commitment to improving the health and wellness of our citizens.”

Community Health Assessment Partnership is a collaborative venture involving municipal and county health departments, as well as local health care facilities and nonprofit organizations. Survey results indicate areas where resources should be directed to improve residents’ health and well-being. Coalition members plan to work together to address these needs, thereby reducing duplication of efforts and improving regional impact.

Coalition members include the Chippewa County Department of Public Health, Chippewa Health Improvement Partnership, Eau Claire City-County Health Department, Eau Claire Healthy Communities, Marshfield Clinic, Mayo Clinic Health System, HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital, HSHS St. Joseph’s Hospital and United Way of the Greater Chippewa Valley.

In March, coalition and community members will meet to create collaborative action plans based on feedback from the February conversations. The action plan meetings will be from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.:

- **Chippewa Falls Heyde Center Auditorium:** Thursday, March 5
- **Eau Claire RCU Corporate Building:** Wednesday, March 18

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